

IMCOM-E dining facilities among best in Army

Four honored at Phillip A. Connelly Awards ceremony

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HEIDELBERG, Germany -- Recognized for excellence in the culinary arts, two Installation Management Command-Europe dining facilities took top honors in the regional 2006 Philip A. Connelly Awards competition—one finished second at Department of the Army level.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company 44th Signal Battalion's Outstanding Café on Sullivan Barracks in Mannheim, Germany, placed first in the small garrison dining facility category, which includes facilities that serve 400 or fewer individuals per meal. The facility then advanced to the DA level competition where it finished second among competitors from throughout the U.S. Army.

“You have to be excellent in food service in order to even compete,” said Sgt. 1st Class Frank Tucker, noncommissioned officer in charge of HHC 44th Signal Battalion's dining facility. “My staff puts in hard work and they enjoy doing what they do.”

“It's a nice feeling to be able to work with such great people,” added Spc. Kasey Jones about the team he is a part of at the Outstanding Café. “We've molded together as a family, as a unit.”

Teamwork also helped HHC 37th Transportation Command's Clock Tower Café, located on Kleber Kaserne in Kaiserslautern, Germany, in its endeavors to be the best. That facility took home regional-level top honors in the large garrison dining facility category, which consists of facilities that serve 401 or more individuals per meal.

The staffs of both dining facilities were recognized for their accomplishment during a ceremony at the Village Pavilion on Patrick Henry Village recently.



Col. Karen Adams, IMCOM-Europe deputy regional director (2nd from right) poses for a picture with 44th Signal Battalion Soldiers from the Outstanding Café after they were named runner-up in the Department of the Army-level Phillip A. Connelly Competition.
U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Elizabeth A. Sheridan

“As most of you know, food service is a demanding business. It is critically linked to the quality of life of thousands of Soldiers, civilians and family members in Europe,” said Col. Karen S. Adams, deputy director of IMCOM's Europe Region. “The achievement of these Soldiers, whose professionalism in the management and operation of our dining facilities, in both the garrison and field environment has truly been remarkable.”

During the ceremony, two additional IMCOM-Europe dining facilities were recognized: Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Brigade's Patriot Gardens, located on Underwood Kaserne in Grossauheim, Germany, finished second at the regional level in the small garrison dining facility category; and HHC 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment's Warrior Sports Café located in Hohenfels, Germany, was the regional runner-up in the large garrison dining facility category.

Before they could join ranks with the best Army in Europe places to eat, all four facilities had to win two competitions: from October 2005 through March, major commands and garrison commanders conducted multilevel competition activities in three categories—large garrison facilities, small garrison facilities, and field kitchens. From April through June, IMCOM-Europe, together with the United States Army Europe and 7th Army, then selected winners and runner-ups from each of these categories.

Winners then advanced to the Department of the Army competition. Those facilities were evaluated on two complete meals with all facets of the operation being examined. Emphasis was placed on food quality and customer acceptance.

Established in 1968, the Phillip A. Connelly Awards are designed to acknowledge the achievements of Army dining facilities. The competition is designed to train individual Soldiers how to accept challenges and sustain proficiency in the food services industry.

For more information about the Phillip A. Connelly Awards competition, visit <http://www.ifsea.com/>, click on Military then Military Awards.



Sgt. 1st Class Solomon Gilbert, manager of the Clock Tower Café in Kaiserslautern, receives the trophy for best Large Garrison dining facility in the IMCOM-Europe region from Col. Karen Adams, deputy regional director for IMCOM-Europe.